

## The Alexandria Gazette

FRIDAY EVEN'G, DECEMBER 12.

LOCAL.—The weather continues bright and clear.—Mr. Gilbert Miner, of this place, is in the legislature at Wheeling.—A craft came up on Wednesday loaded with oysters of a poor quality, for which one dollar and fifty cents per bushel was asked, and not obtained.—There is considerable wood from the country coming in, but the supply is not equal to the demand, and the price is high.—The confectionary shops in town are getting ready for Christmas.—We have not heard of any ice being obtained for ice-houses, as yet.—Walter Packard, son of Rev. Dr. Packard, of the Theological Seminary, near this place, died recently at Hanover Court House; also, a young daughter of Dr. Packard died recently at Salem, Fauquier county.

In the House of Representatives yesterday, Mr. May rose to a personal explanation, stating that he had been detained from his seat by sickness, and wished now to record his vote on certain measures transacted during his absence. The Speaker asked, "what measures?" Mr. May—The bill to indemnify executive tyrannies and justifying arbitrary arrests, and also the bill dismembering and mutilating the old commonwealth of Virginia, passed yesterday. I wish to vote against them. The Speaker did not know any bills by such titles. Mr. May—This is the only description by which I know them. Mr. Fessenden objected, because the gentleman had not correctly stated the title of the first named bill, and Mr. May's vote was refused."

The account which the Philadelphia Journal has heard of the circumstances attending the murder of the late Robert E. Scott, of Fauquier, is incorrect. He was not killed at his own house. He was sent for, and proceeded to a lady's house, in his neighborhood, to protect her family from some marauders. While there, he was shot and killed. We have never heard what was the result of the investigation into the case, ordered by the military authorities.

The important army operations now in progress, and especially the events at Fredericksburg, engross public attention. We give the accounts as furnished by the authorized army despatches.

We received this morning the Wheeling papers from the 4th to the 9th inst., inclusive.

By order of the Secretary of War, Thomas H. Crow and William H. Carter, citizens of Berryville, Clarke county, Virginia, have been released from Fort McHenry and returned to their homes.

Gov. Pierpont's Message at Wheeling, is published in the Wheeling papers. It is mainly occupied in remarks defending the President's Emancipation Proclamation. He calls attention to the intension of the stay law.

Gold in N. York, yesterday, 132.

A suit has been commenced in Newark, by Jonathan P. Coddington, against Deputy Marshal Charles Benjamin, for illegal arrests and imprisonment. The damages are laid at \$2,500. Coddington and Mr. C. W. Poor were arrested by the Deputy Marshal for alleged interference with enlistments.

THE WAR IN THE WEST.—The advices from Tennessee indicate that another battle is likely to take place at or near Harisville. On Wednesday morning the Confederates advanced in heavy force and drove in the Federal pickets at every point. Great excitement prevailed at Nashville, and reinforcements were being rapidly sent forward. On Tuesday a fight occurred at Lavergne, midway between Nashville and Murfreesboro', in which a Federal foraging party was attacked by a Confederate force, who were twice repulsed, and the train escaped to camp. The Federal loss was four killed, twenty-nine wounded and nine missing. The Confederate loss is not known as they held the field.

It appears that the war in Mississippi is brought to an end for the present by the bad roads. The Confederates have retreated towards Alabama, with the intention of joining the forces in Tennessee.

It is now estimated that the Federal loss at the battle of Crawford's Prairie, Arkansas, will reach one thousand, while that of the Confederates is estimated at two thousand. The Confederates, it is supposed, have retreated to Van Buren, probably crossing the Alabama river. Gen. Blunt has moved forward.

Mr. Bumgarner, Deputy U. S. Marshal for Cabell county, Western Virginia, who arrived in Wheeling on Monday, reports that the Confederate Colonel, Clarkson, with a large force of cavalry, has been scouring Cabell county between the Big Sandy and Kanawha Rivers for several days, capturing prisoners and driving off cattle, horses and hogs. On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of last week he was in Cabell county; and approached within twelve miles of Guyandotte. He captured about forty Union men and took them away with him, beside a large number of horses, hogs and cattle. Clarkson came down through Tazewell and Logan counties and returned by the same route. Col. Zeigler is at Ceredo, with the Fifth Virginia, but he is kept pretty busy fighting the guerilla Capt. Wicker, commonly known as "Clawhammer," whose band occupy Wayne county.

One hundred and eleven prisoners, members of Jenkins' guerrillas, who were captured near Lewisburg by Col. Paxton, of the Second Virginia Cavalry, arrived at Wheeling on Monday.

The Richmond Enquirer of the 3d inst. says: "The extraordinary price of \$3.25 per bushel, to which corn has suddenly risen in this market, induced a movement here on Thursday morning last to apply a remedy. A subscription of \$16,000 was made on Thursday by twenty-seven of our citizens and firms, to be placed in the hands of one or more competent persons, who will go to the eastern part of the State and lay it out in corn, which is to be brought here and sold at cost and charges. A good deal of feeling has been manifested about this excessive advance of corn."

The New York Express, speaking of the important proceedings in the House of Representatives on Monday, and the passage of Mr. Stevens' bill, says: "A deplorable part of the day's record is the absence of Democrats from their seats in Congress, and hence this miserable show of only forty-five against Stevens' ex post facto bill."

The hospital vessel, St. Marks, has arrived at N. Y. from this place.

## From Washington.

[Correspondence of the Philadelphia Inquirer.]

Gen. McClellan will, upon the completion of his testimony here before the courts now in session, return to New York. General Seth Williams, late Assistant Adjutant General of the Army of the Potomac, will accompany him with the papers of the campaign. The first thing he will do will be to prepare his report of the close of the campaign on the Peninsula, the change of base, &c., &c.

We are informed from a very reliable source that a member of Congress, a few nights ago, lost twenty-seven hundred dollars, fighting the tiger at a den on Fourteenth street.

Corporal Jordan, Company G, Baxter's Fire Zouaves, died in his tent on Sunday night. His comrades say he had been sick and froze to death—his system being in such condition the cold took immediate effect.

At the request of General Burnside, the Secretary of War issued an order this morning forbidding the issuing of passes to any one to go down to the army.

It is said that Gov. Hamilton, of Texas, left with the Banks expedition.

The Post Office Committee in the Senate will report a bill to construct a line of telegraph from San Francisco to the Amoo river.

The President has consented to the hanging of thirty-nine of the condemned Indians.

Senator Browning to-day introduced a bill amendatory to the establishing the Territorial Government of Utah. The design is to remove several causes of irritability, restore the United States Courts to their original jurisdiction, and facilitate the administration of justice.

Mr. Noell, of Missouri, has prepared a bill which will be introduced in the House, to submit the propositions of the President to the State of Missouri, that upon the adoption by that State of a system for the immediate abolition of slavery therein, to take effect on or before the first day of January, 1864, the United States will provide for the compensation to the loyal owners of slaves therein to the extent of twenty millions of dollars.

CONDUCT OF A LADY.—The army correspondent of the New York Times, writing from Aquia Creek, relates the following incident:—"An incident which recently transpired near here is worthy of recording, illustrating, as it does, the coolness and courage with which Virginia women are endowed. A cavalry straggler, after vainly ransacking the out-buildings of a plantation in search of corn, approached the door in which a young lady was standing, and demanded that some of the grain, which he knew was concealed in the house, should be given him." "We have none," was the reply. "Stand aside until I go in and see for myself," he rudely retorted, at the same time whipping the same time whipping out of its sheath a heavy Colt's revolver. No sooner done than the fair girl planted herself firmly in the doorway, drew a small repeater from her posom, and, deliberately aiming it at the rascal's head, exclaimed: "Approach one step further toward this house and you are a dead man"—Cowed and baffled by such an exhibition of bravery, the trooper turned on his heel and left."

It is stated that the bill for the admission of Western Virginia will not be immediately acted upon by the President, as it is intimated that "he has some scruples as to the Constitutionality of the act."